

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application. No. :

09/227,389

Confirmation No. 8371

Applicant Filed

Lavian, et al. 01/08/1999

TC/A.U.

2665

Examiner

Toan D. Nguyen

Docket No.

082771.P347

Customer No.

8791

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Being filed concurrently with a continuing application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

Docket No: 082771.P347 Page 1 of 11 WWS/crr